PERPETUATING THE MEMORY OF

Walter Rauschenbusch

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Gift of
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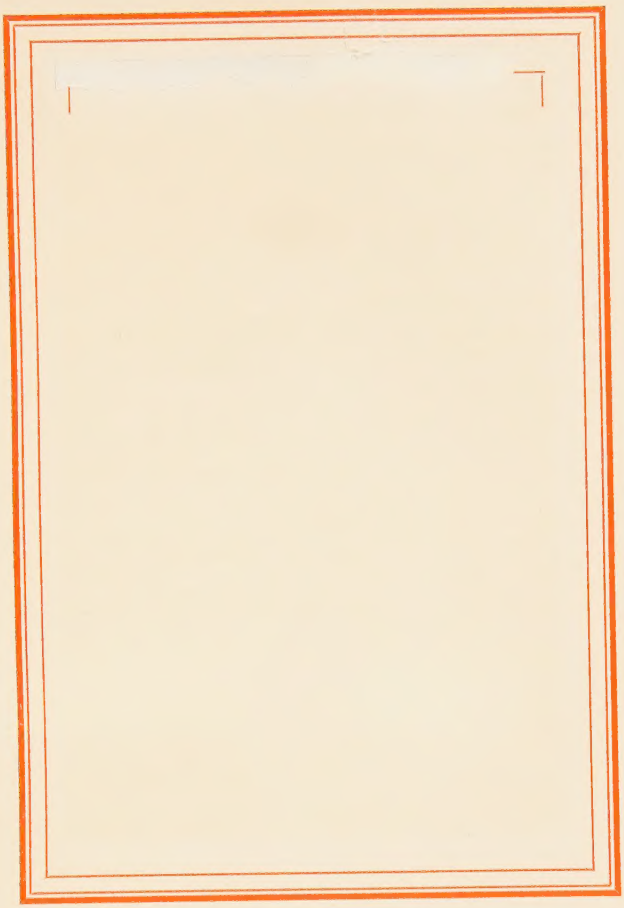

PERPETUATING

THE MEMORY OF

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

A LIVING MEMORIAL
TO A GREAT SERVANT OF THE
KINGDOM OF GOD ON
EARTH

THE COLGATE-ROCHESTER DIVINITY SCHOOL

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Walter Rauschenbusch—the Man

HOW universal he was! Ideal husband and father; minister of a struggling church; pioneer in the forum movement; shepherd of the poor and oppressed of every race; friend unfailing in humor, wisdom and sympathy; author; prophet; poet; a saint whose devotional spirit created classics of Christian liturgy; seeker after God; lover of babies and children; champion of democracy and the cooperative commonwealth; great international soul.

In his tribute to Professor Rauschenbusch, President Augustus Hopkins Strong wrote, "No MORE CHIVALROUS OR LOVING SPIRIT WAS EVER BORN EXCEPT OUR LORD AND REDEEMER."

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"He was a modern saint as glorious as any of the distant past."

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II

Citizen

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH was a Rochester product. Here his father toiled before him. Here he was born and reared, here he taught and wrote, here he went over the crest of the hill. His "Prayers of the Social Awakening" were dedicated "To my friends at Rochester whose love has been my cheer." Playgrounds, parks, public education, local forums, labor circles, interdenominational undertakings, the City Club, the People's Sunday Evening and many other Rochester activities felt the power of his creative public spirit. He attracted the attention of the world to his native city. In Europe and Asia, scholars and religious leaders studied the geography of western New York to find the home of the new prophet.

Upon the occasion of his passing Mr. Isaac Adler, now President of the Rochester City Council, remarked, "ROCHESTER HAS LOST ITS FIRST CITIZEN AND I A DEAR FRIEND."

"*He saw afar because he daily walked with God.*"

III

Teacher and Writer

RAY STANNARD BAKER, the authorized biographer of Woodrow Wilson, wrote some years ago, "a rare spirit indeed, is this deaf prophet of Rochester. A truly religious spirit, he draws all sorts of men to him, making a sure place in their hearts. Though he writes strongly of social conditions, though his convictions are deep, nowhere . . . will there be found a note of hatred. . . ."

Thoughtful men the world over hailed his first book published in 1907, "Christianity and the Social Crisis," as like unto a new revelation. "Prayers of the Social Awakening," "Christianizing the Social Order," "The Social Principles of Jesus," and "A Theology for the Social Gospel," followed as the thinking of the Rochester professor matured and as the movement for a wider application of the teachings of Jesus to human affairs gained momentum.

Zona Gale wrote on the occasion of his death, "OF ALL MEN, IN THE TIME TO COME, HE COULD HAVE SPOKEN, OH, BUT HE WILL SPEAK BECAUSE HE HAS SPOKEN, AND WHAT HE HAS SPOKEN AND FELT AND HOPED WILL KEEP ON SOUNDING."

IV

The Memorial

EARLY in 1928, Mrs. Edmund Lyon, a life-long friend and admirer of Walter Rauschenbusch and a member of the Presbyterian Church, proposed a Lectureship Foundation which would not only perpetuate the memory but also carry forward the great truths which he expounded. To challenge the Divinity School and the friends of the distinguished Professor, Mrs. Lyon offered the sum of $10,000 provided other friends furnish $15,000 more. On April 19, 1928, the Executive Committee of the Rochester Theological Seminary in grateful acknowledgment of that generous offer took steps toward the establishment of the Lectureship, and included this among the objectives of the Greater Colgate-Rochester Campaign.

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"The essence of Professor Rauschenbusch's message is that religion has not one, but two great functions to perform. There are two great entities in human life, the human soul and the human race—and religion is to save them both."

V

Not Local, but National

FRIENDS in other cities hearing of the proposed lectureship, suggested that to make it an adequate "tribute to one whose national and international significance is increasingly recognized," a campaign for at least $50,000 should be undertaken to support a Lectureship of more than local significance. In brief, the idea is a Foundation which shall provide primarily for a series of lectures in Rochester and then for lectures by the same person in other cities or institutions. To this end, a National Committee has been appointed and the project indorsed by the Trustees of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

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"No man had a larger part in shaping the course of organized Christianity than did Walter Rauschenbusch."

VI

Not Merely a Memorial but a Cause

IN accordance with the above, the Committee is seeking to secure at least $50,000, no pledges to be binding until $25,000 in good pledges shall have been secured. The income from the entire amount shall be devoted first to an annual series of lectures at the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, on a Foundation to be known as the Walter Rauschenbusch Memorial Lectureship, and second so far as the income will permit, to make available the published lectures, and to pay for supplemental lectures by the same lecturer in large cities or in other University centers, the preference to be given to those communities that interest themselves in the securing of the necessary funds.

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"Every prophet comes out of the wilderness to speak to men. Professor Rauschenbusch found his message amid obscurity and enforced silence."

VII

President Barbour writes:

WE ask the loyal and enthusiastic cooperation of all the alumni who knew and loved Doctor Rauschenbusch, also, of all who came before his day, and of those who have passed through the life of the school as undergraduates since he went away from us ten years ago. *We also ask all those to whom his spirit has come, through his writings and addresses, to help thus to perpetuate his memory.* There are many who owe to him more than they can ever pay, but here is the opportunity to make a partial payment upon an obligation which can never be fully cancelled."

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"Great men need not that we praise them. The need is ours that we know them."

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